

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPEDITED CARD REFORM FOR CONSUMERS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3639) to amend the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 to establish an earlier effective date for various consumer protections, and for other purposes:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3639—the Expedited CARD Act of 2009. This important piece of legislation will continue the great work that this Congress and the President completed earlier this year, by moving up the remaining dates on the original Credit CARD Act.

Since signing the CARD Act into law, credit card companies have engaged in last-ditch predatory practices, seeking to gain as much money as possible from the American consumer. Many of the same practices that the Federal Reserve labeled “unfair or deceptive” and were prohibited in the original CARD Act, have increased in past months. In fact, since last May, credit card companies have raised interest rates by an average of 20 percent.

When this law was passed, this body warned credit card companies that swift action would be taken if these companies took advantage of the staggered implementation of the bill. It is clear these companies have done just that, and we are now prepared to follow through on our promise.

I want to thank Mrs. MALONEY and Chairman FRANK for their hard work on this issue and I am proud to be a cosponsor on this important piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

HONORING ROBERT WAMPLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Robert Wample upon his retirement as the director of the Viticulture and Enology Research Center and the chair of the Department of Viticulture and Enology at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Wample was honored on September 19, 2009 at a fundraising event for the Robert L. Wample Viticulture and Enology Endowment Fund in support of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Dr. Wample served in the United States Marine Corps from 1962 until 1966. Upon separating from the military, he began his college education. In 1971, he graduated cum laude from the University of Idaho with a Bachelors

of Science degree in Botany. While attending college he worked as a Research Technician for the United States Department of Agriculture at the Forest Service research center in Idaho. Dr. Wample continued his education at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where he earned his Ph.D. in Plant Physiology. His teaching career began while in Calgary; while completing his Ph.D. he was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University.

After earning his Ph.D., Dr. Wample served as a Postgraduate Scholar for the National Research Council of Canada. In 1976, he moved to southern California to take an Associate Professor of Botany position with California State University, Fullerton. After two years, he moved to Washington State University where he was an Associate Professor of Horticulture and Assistant Horticulturist for nine years. In 1993, he became a Professor, Horticulturist and Viticulturist for the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Washington State University. In 2000, Dr. Wample found his way to California State University, Fresno. Over the past nine years, he has served as the Julio Gallo Chair and Director of the Viticulture and Enology Research Center, as well as the Chair of the Department of Viticulture and Enology.

Prior to Dr. Wample joining CSU Fresno, the viticulture and enology had been operating independently of each other for fifty years. Under his leadership, the two programs were merged together to become the first California State University to combine the two research and academic programs. The merge has had great success, including the recognition of CSU Fresno as a global agricultural education prominence. Further, during Dr. Wample's tenure, the program has raised well over five hundred thousand dollars in industry funding for the research programs.

Dr. Wample has served on a number of committees for the departments and colleges he has worked in. He has served on the Washington State Animal Damage Control Advisory Board, the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Selection Committee, the W-130/WRCC-17, organizing committee for the International Symposium on Nitrogen in Grapes and Wine, the National Grapevine Importation Program and he served as the co-chairman of the committee for the International Symposium on Wine Grape Irrigation. He is also involved with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Plant Physiology, American Society of Horticulture Science, American Society of Enology and Viticulture and the Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. Dr. Wample's civic and community membership includes Rotary International, Prosser Wine and Food Fair Committee, Advisor to the Prosser Economic Development Association and United Good Neighbors.

Dr. Wample has been involved with, and led numerous research projects, including research on specific physiological responses of

a plant and agricultural advancements in machinery and irrigation. He has spoken at many seminars and given many presentations. Dr. Wample is published in well over two hundred journals, books, magazines, reports, abstracts, papers and publications.

For his activities, inside the university and the community, Dr. Wample has been widely honored. He has been honored by the American Society of Enology and Viticulture, the International Symposium of Nitrogen in Grapes and Wine, the Second International Symposium on Climate Viticulture, International Conference on Crop Productivity and the National Research Council of Canada.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Robert Wample upon his retirement from California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Wample many years of continued success.

THANKING JOE ADAMS FOR HIS
SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on November 2, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Joe Adams for his 32 years of distinguished service to Congress. Joe has served this great institution as a valued employee of the Architect of the Capitol for 19 years and House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for 13 years.

Joe joined HIR in 1996 as a Data Network Engineer. During this time, he successfully upgraded the House Campus Data Network to an Ethernet-based, high-capacity data communications backbone and increased the House Internet connection capacity 200 fold from 3 Megabits per second (Mbps) to 600 Mbps. These upgrades were the foundation of greatly improved information technology service delivery and contributed significantly to highly available, mission critical data transport services.

In recent years, as manager for the Network Systems Engineering Branch, Joe led a team of engineers who helped implement upgrades to support efficient, effective and sustainable services to the House. His unparalleled dedication, considerable institutional knowledge and attention to detail have helped the Office of the CAO maintain a high degree of customer satisfaction. For his performance, he was awarded the “CAO Distinguished Service Award” in 2003 and the “CAO Excellence Award for Knowledge” in 2008.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Joe for his years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States Congress.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
TERRY JOYCE, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Terry "Kelly" Joyce, Sr., devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and staunch labor advocate, whose commitment to family, to his Irish heritage and to the workers of Cleveland has left an indelible imprint throughout our community.

Born and raised in County Mayo, Ireland, Mr. Joyce immigrated to America in 1957 and settled in Cleveland. A year later, he met his wife, Bridget "Bridie" Jennings, whose journey to America also originated in County Mayo. They married in 1964 and raised three children, Maureen, Eileen and Terry. Mr. Joyce's wife, children and grandchildren were the center and spark of his life—and he remained actively involved in their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce held their Irish homeland close to their hearts, and regularly celebrated treasured customs and traditions for their children and grandchildren to know and cherish. They travelled often from Cleveland to the Emerald Isle, and their strong connection to their heritage reflected throughout our community. Mr. Joyce was named the Irish Fellowship Man of the Year in 1974, and helped found the Irish National Caucus in Cleveland, serving as its president in 1971. He also served on the board of the West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) for many years, and was named the WSIA Man of the Year in 1978. In 1991, he served as co-chair of the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade, and served as parade announcer for twenty-four years.

Mr. Joyce lived his life with heart, compassion, integrity, a great sense of humor and an unwavering work ethic. He mastered the construction trades and became a union member and leader. In 1957, the same year he settled in America, Mr. Joyce joined Cleveland's Laborers Local 310. From 1965 until his retirement in 1991, he served as Local 310's business agent. Mr. Joyce also served as president of the Ohio Labor District Council from 1975 until his retirement in 1991. During his tenure as labor leader, he worked tirelessly on behalf of workers and their families. Mr. Joyce was responsible for major advances in the labor force, including the attainment of critical benefits, including pensions, for union workers. Because of his leadership, Laborers Local 310 of Cleveland grew to become one of the most effective labor unions in the country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Terry "Kelly" Joyce, Sr., whose energy for life, kind heart, and unwavering service to others will forever endure within the hearts and memories of his family, friends and the laborers of our community. I extend my condolences to Mr. Joyce's wife, Bridget; to his children, Maureen, Eileen and Terry; to his son-in-law John and daughter-in-law Nicole; to his grandchildren, Brona, Eoin, Cormac and Aislinn; sister, Grace; and to his extended family members and numerous friends. From family and friends to County and Cleveland Mayor, Mr. Joyce's love of life and service to others will continue to touch the hearts of many, and he will be remembered always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 852 H. Res. 863, No. 853 H. Res. 641, No. 854 H. Res. 711, and No. 855 H. Res. 856 I was not present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 852; "yea" on No. 853; "yea" on No. 854, and "yea" on No. 855.

CELEBRATING INCREASED FUNDING FOR NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the recent increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. The Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, which President Obama has signed into law, contains \$167.5 million in funding for both agencies, an increase of \$12.5 million over last year's level. This is on top of the \$50 million that the NEA received in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to preserve jobs in the arts. As a member of both the Arts and Humanities Caucuses, I want to thank Representatives SLAUGHTER, PLATTS, PRICE (NC), and PETRI, as well as Chairman DICKS, for their hard work in pushing for these funding increases.

The arts and humanities play a crucial role in our society: they enhance our creativity, promote critical aspects of education, and provide Americans with the opportunity to view works of beauty and personal expression. Through exposure to the arts and humanities, our children are inspired to explore their own creativity and encouraged towards positive development in the course of their educational careers. There are also economic benefits of local arts in our communities, not just for those employed in theaters or museums, but also for tourism and economic revitalization programs. The downturn in philanthropic giving, brought on by the economic collapse, has constrained or even closed cultural institutions and, in turn, the restaurants, hotels, and construction industries that rely on their success. This is just one more reason that these funding increases are needed.

I also want to recognize President Obama for understanding the important role that the arts and humanities play in enriching our lives and strengthening our economy. The President has appointed two exceptionally qualified individuals to head the NEA and NEH. Jim Leach, our former colleague, has a distinguished academic background, including his recent service as Visiting Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. He brings to the NEH a first-hand understanding of the needs of educators, historians, curators, researchers, archivists and scholars. Rocco

Landesman, the Director of the NEA, has a long and varied career in the performing arts, and has brought an energy and focus to the job that will help foster a vibrant artistic landscape.

Again, I rise to celebrate these important funding increases, and I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues to strengthen support for the arts and humanities.

VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICEMEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3949, the Veterans' Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009, a bill which I am pleased to co-sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, this is an omnibus bill that would make improvements in several areas of veterans legislation by including provisions from bills introduced by Economic Opportunity Subcommittee Chairwoman HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, and Mr. FRANK.

However, I am very disappointed that due to jurisdictional issues raised by the majority side of the Committee on Small Business, a provision from my bill, H.R. 3223 was withdrawn from the bill. My provision would merely change the word "may" to "shall" to authorize VA contracting officers to award non-competitive contracts worth less than \$5,000,000 to qualified service disabled veteran-owned businesses. Such contracts would also be required to provide the best value to the government in the judgment of the contracting officer. Changing "may" to "shall" would merely put service-disabled veterans on an equal footing with businesses qualifying as an 8(a) firm under the Small Business Act. The word "shall" is used when awarding noncompetitive contracts to 8(a) firms. The disparity created by using "may" versus "shall" has a negative effect on the ability of service disabled veteran-owned businesses to obtain contracts with VA. It is important that service-disabled veterans are able to compete on a level field and I will continue to advocate for changing "may" to "shall".

Mr. Speaker, I am especially proud of the provisions in Public Law 109-461 passed during the 109th Congress, that improve the competitive status of veteran-owned businesses, VOB, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, SDVOB. We did that by giving Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, contracting officers additional tools to award contracts to those businesses and by making it plain that Congress believed that VOB and SDVOB have priority in VA small business contracting. One of those provisions required VA to maintain a database of veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and to verify the ownership and control of the businesses listed in the database.

Unfortunately, VA has been slow to implement the verification process and has currently

verified only about 2,000 of the 15,000 businesses listed in the database. Therefore, I am delighted that Subcommittee Chairwoman HERSETH SANDLIN has clarified Congress' intent on having a business included only after verification of ownership and control as a means to prevent awarding contracts to businesses which are not veteran-owned.

With the implementation of the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, it is more important than ever to ensure VA receives up-to-date advice from schools and State Approving Agencies on issues related to veterans education. I congratulate Ms. KIRKPATRICK for extending the life of the Advisory Committee on Veterans Education through 2015.

I am also especially pleased with H.R. 3949's provisions that would strengthen protections for servicemembers under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA, by clarifying the rights and obligations of servicemembers and providers regarding service contracts for cell phone service, residential and automobile leases.

The bill also makes important changes to SCRA by codifying a servicemember's private right of action and authorizing the U.S. Attorney General to bring appropriate action in U.S. District Courts. The bill also authorizes the Courts to award fines up to \$110,000, and take other appropriate actions in violations of SCRA.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to direct injuries to a servicemember's eyes, one of the hidden injuries of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is the damage to vision done by explosions. Unfortunately, visual injuries as a result of one or more concussive injuries may not manifest for an extended time beyond the event. When combined with direct eye injuries, the number of veterans who will be seeking VA assistance with visual impairment will increase and I share Ms. JACKSON-LEE's and her cosponsor, Mr. BOOZMAN's concern that VA lacks sufficient staff who are experts in treating veterans with visual and mobility impairment. I congratulate them for the provisions that would create a scholarship program for those seeking a degree or certificate in that field.

Mr. Speaker, I have long been an advocate on behalf of VA's National Cemetery System and compassionate treatment of the heroes that are buried there and their families. I appreciate Mr. FRANK's initiative that would allow burial of a parent with a servicemember killed in combat or training for combat, as long as the burial would not displace another veteran or servicemember and it is limited to servicemembers who have no dependents.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
LENA T. HUGHES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the beloved Lena T. Hughes, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and friend.

Mrs. Hughes' family was the foundation and joy of her life. She was the wife of the late Patrick Gilbert Hughes, with whom she created a loving home and raised three daugh-

ters, Rose, Lynne and Mary Jo. Their mutual devotion to family was reflected in the closeness they shared with their seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hughes created a warm and inviting home for her family and friends. From never missing special events in the lives of her children and grandchildren, to preparing wonderful meals for family gatherings, her priority was always her family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Lena T. Hughes, whose joyous spirit and love for others will exist forever within the hearts and memories of those who knew her best—her family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to her daughters; her son-in-law, Timothy; her seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; her sister, Anne; and to her many friends. Mrs. Hughes will be remembered always.

CELEBRATING THE SUNNYVALE
PECAN HARVEST FESTIVAL AND
HONORING PECAN QUEEN LEONA
FISCHER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize the Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival and the first ever Sunnyvale Pecan Queen.

The Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival was a vision of Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce Chairman Terry Reid and has been brought to fruition through her tremendous efforts, as well as that of other Chamber members, local businesses and the Town of Sunnyvale. This festival is the first of its kind in Sunnyvale and is sure to be a popular community event for years to come.

A festival would not be complete without a Queen, and Sunnyvale has chosen a wonderful lady to serve as the first ever "Pecan Queen." Ms. Leona Fischer has been a resident of Sunnyvale for more than 40 years and continues to contribute to her community as much today as she did when she first moved there. As the director of the Douglas and Michael Kindergarten and Day School, Ms. Fischer would bring the children attending the school out to her property in Sunnyvale for camping, swimming and fishing. When she moved to Sunnyvale permanently, Ms. Fischer and her husband started antique and real estate businesses and continued to contribute to their community.

While her antique shop has since closed, Ms. Fischer can still be seen around Sunnyvale, running her real estate business. Ms. Fischer makes towns like Sunnyvale a great place to live and work, and I am proud to represent Ms. Fischer and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.

With a Classic Custom Car and Truck show, live music performances—including a special guest appearance by Grammy winner Art Greenhaw and the awarding of the "Beth Bassett Music Achievement Award"—the baking and photo contests and the food and shopping opportunities, the First Annual Sunnyvale Pecan Harvest Festival is sure to be an outstanding event for the families of Sunnyvale.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am privileged to recognize

Terry Reid, Leona Fischer, the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce and the town of Sunnyvale for all their hard work and dedication. I wish them great success.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of two U.S. allies. Twenty years ago, during the month of November 1989, the country then known as Czechoslovakia freed itself of communist control, instituted democratic elections and set out to adapt its command economy to the free market. From what many refer to as the "Velvet Revolution of 1989" or the "Gentle Revolution," Czechoslovakia peacefully became two democratic countries by mutual consent: the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993. The Velvet Revolution or the Gentle Revolution, if you wish, opened the way for democracy and prosperity for the people of the former Czechoslovakia.

During their brief history as independent nations, both the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic garnered worldwide respect with their admittance into the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United Nations. They have further solidified their commitment with their military units participating in NATO missions throughout the globe.

The Czech Republic has a local tie to its NATO admission with Missouri's Fifth District. The documents of admission were signed at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri. We are honored to have H.E. Peter Burian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S. and Daniel Kostoval, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Missouri's Fifth District from November 5–7, 2009 to celebrate the birth and growth of two allied nations. Amongst their many activities with our local Czech-American and Slovak-American communities, the visiting dignitaries will lay a wreath at President Truman's grave on Friday, November 6th to commemorate their NATO affiliations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt congratulations to the Czech Republic and Slovakia for their relentless efforts in extending goodwill and democratic principles, not only within their borders, but to the global community including the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to please join me in expressing our appreciation to two nations who continue to evolve in the democratic tradition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 832—H.R. 1168, the Veterans

Retraining Act of 2009, on rollcall No. 833—H. Res. 291, Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, and on rollcall No. 834—S. 509, A bill to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 841—"nay."
Rollcall 842—"noe."
Rollcall 843—"yea."
Rollcall 844—"yea."
Rollcall 845—"aye."
Rollcall 846—"aye."
Rollcall 847—"noe."
Rollcall 848—"noe."
Rollcall 849—"noe."
Rollcall 850—"aye."
Rollcall 851—"noe."
Rollcall 852—"yea."
Rollcall 853—"yea."
Rollcall 854—"yea."
Rollcall 855—"yea."

RECOGNIZING DR. SHEILA O'SHEA KAHRS

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to recognize Dr. Sheila O'Shea Kahrs, the Principal of Haymon-Morris Middle School in Winder, Georgia, who has been named the 2010 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year program honors distinguished middle level and high school principals who have provided first-rate learning opportunities for students and made significant contributions to the education profession.

Each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity selects one middle level and one high level school principal to represent them. From these individuals, six finalists are chosen as candidates for the National Principal of the Year award. Dr. Kahrs distinguished herself from these outstanding educators and was chosen as the 2010 MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year.

The Seventh District of Georgia is privileged to have such an accomplished educator serving our children. Extending my sincerest thanks to Dr. Kahrs for all her hard work and dedication to the profession of teaching, I wish her the best on her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4027, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER AND WESTERN AREA POWER ADMIN- ISTRATION FIRM POWER CUS- TOMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, as Ranking Republican of the House Natural Resources Committee, I am today introducing legislation to protect American taxpayers and existing customers of the Western Area Power Administration, WAPA. It is called the "The American Taxpayer and Western Area Power Administration Firm Power Customer Protection Act." I'm pleased that TOM MCCLINTOCK, the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, is joining me in sponsoring this bill.

Earlier this year, the Democrat Majority passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is better known as the stimulus spending bill. Many of the new programs in this law were never debated beforehand and were inserted behind closed doors without transparency or an opportunity for Members of Congress or the American people to review and scrutinize them.

Included among these new programs was WAPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program's borrowing authority. This new \$3.25 billion borrowing authority allows the WAPA Administrator to provide loans to develop new transmission aimed solely at integrating renewable energies. As some envisioned, the loans would be mainly given to private wind and solar developers for transmission investments. This new borrowing authority is quite unlike the Bonneville Power Administration's, BPA, longstanding borrowing authority, which can be used for integrating all generation sources, as well as for fish and wildlife mitigation and conservation efforts.

Madam Speaker, there is another key difference between the two borrowing authorities and it's one that my legislation directly addresses: the risk of a bailout funded by American taxpayers. The actual WAPA statute describes it best: "If, at the end of the useful life of a project, there is a remaining balance owed to the Treasury under this section, the balance shall be forgiven." This means that American taxpayers will foot the bill for any outstanding balances on a project that cannot be repaid. This would be similar to a homeowner defaulting on a 30 year loan and having the bank pick up the remaining balance, except that the taxpayer would end up paying for the bad investment. BPA, which proudly boasts about repaying its debts with interest and ahead of schedule, does not have a similar taxpayer bailout provision in its borrowing authority. I might also add that the Tennessee Valley Authority repays its debt with interest as well.

To date, WAPA has announced one project under the borrowing authority: a wind transmission project owned by a Canadian company. Under the taxpayer bailout provision, if this project failed, then the American taxpayer would have to bail out a foreign company for up to \$161 million.

It is also important to recognize that some of WAPA's existing customers, who are theo-

retically not impacted by this program, remain concerned that they will now bear some costs even if they do not benefit due to the lack of defined rules and regulations to govern the borrowing authority. It's critical that the principle of "beneficiaries pay" is maintained and not undermined. It is not the responsibility of those who may not benefit from a project, or the federal taxpayers, to fund such projects. Those who build and benefit from a project must bear its full costs.

For these reasons, I am introducing this legislation to amend WAPA's borrowing authority to both add protections for existing customers and to eliminate the taxpayer bailout provisions. I hope for this action on this bill.

HONORING SISTER REPARATA FAUBERT, OP

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Sister Reparata Faubert, OP as she celebrates 60 years as a member of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. An open house will be held in her honor on November 8 in Flint Michigan.

A native of St. Charles, Michigan, Sister Reparata was taught at Holy Family School by the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. At the age of 18 she entered the congregation and professed her vows. This was followed by years of teaching high school and working on her education. Sister Reparata obtained a BA from Aquinas College, an MA from the Theological Institute in Saginaw, and a second MA from Cardinal Stritch College.

After completing a CPE program at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Sister Reparata began working as a hospital chaplain for the 3 public hospitals in Flint. Her gentle, serene thoughtfulness to patients, families and hospital staff brings solace and hope to persons facing difficult, heart-wrenching events. With the grace that comes from the Eucharist, the Office and the Rosary, Sister Reparata visits the sick and passes on the spiritual blessings.

St. Dominic's life mission was to Praise, to Bless and to Preach and in 1206 he lead 12 women into religious life. They became the first Dominican Sisters Convent and Sister Reparata is part of the line of women that has taken the same vows and served Our Lord, Jesus Christ, with the same joy, stretching back to that first group. She embodies the part of Dominican Life that calls its adherents to be open to encountering the Holy in all people.

When asked to comment on the past 60 years as a member of the Dominican Order, Sister Reparata recalled John 14:23: "If you do the will of My Father, we will come to you and make our abode with you." It is this humble submission to God's will that has endeared Sister Reparata to everyone that knows her.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Sister Reparata as she celebrates this milestone. The Flint area has truly been blessed by God for allowing her to work with us. I pray that He will continue to bless us with Sister Reparata's compassion and kindness for many, many years to come.

LIEUTENANT ADAM W. BRYANT

HON. THOMAS S. P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Adam W. Bryant of the United States Coast Guard, who went missing in a helicopter collision over the Pacific Ocean on October 29, 2009, along with eight fellow Coast Guard officers. My heart goes out to his parents, Jerry and Nina Bryant, his brother Ben, and all of those who knew and loved Adam. He is sorely missed by his friends, family, community, and fellow servicemembers.

Adam was a graduate of Kenston Forest School in Blackstone, Virginia, and the United States Coast Guard Academy. After completing his mandatory enlistment, he continued his service in the Coast Guard. He had served for 10 years. His family has described him as an intelligent, talented young man who knew from an early age that his calling was service to his country. I know that many will feel his loss deeply, for his accomplishments, his potential, and his role as a loving son, brother, grandson, and nephew. On behalf of Virginia's 5th District, I offer Adam's family my sincerest condolences and thank them for Adam's years of courageous and devoted service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote No. 841, on a motion ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 3639, The Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this rollcall vote.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ISOTOPES PRODUCTION ACT OF 2009

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3276, the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009. Currently a vast majority of our nation's critical supply of medical isotopes are imported from Canada and the Netherlands. Yet, unforeseeable and unpreventable disruptions and delays in obtaining the isotopes has severely impacted nuclear medical procedure throughout the country.

The American Medical Isotopes Production Act will enable research institutions, like Washington State University in my district, that already have reactors capable of producing low enriched uranium to supply a significant portion of U.S. demand for molybdenum-99 and other medical isotopes. The domestic production of moly-99 will ensure that facilities such as WSU can store isotopes necessary to continue treatment and early detection pro-

grams for cancer, heart disease, and thyroid disease.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill not only will lower the cost and improve medical treatments here at home but it will be a significant step in reducing the United States reliance on foreign energy. The American Medical Isotopes Production Act is a fiscally responsible measure that makes the United States safer, more independent, and will provide hospitals across the country with the resources they need to continue to provide the best healthcare in the world. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3276, the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009.

HONORING HARRISBURG MASONIC LODGE #325 A.F. & A.M.

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. in Harrisburg, Illinois upon the dedication of their new facility on November 7, 2009. Additionally, I wish to congratulate them on their 150th anniversary.

The Harrisburg Lodge #325 was granted a charter by the State of Illinois Grand Lodge on October 5, 1859. The charter members were: Green Berry Raum, Worshipful Master; Moses P. McGehee, Senior Warden; Richard N. Warfield, Junior Warden; Benjamin Bruce, Treasurer; John W. Mitchell, Secretary; John S. Eubanks, Senior Deacon; Harvey R. Pearce, Junior Deacon; William G. Sloan, Senior Steward; Charles Nyberg, Junior Steward and Charles A. Towle, Tiler.

Born in Golconda, Illinois, Green Berry Raum led a life of continued service, was a member of the 40th Congress. Mr. Raum practiced law in Harrisburg, Illinois; served in the Union Army during the Civil War as a major in the Fifty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served in the 40th Congress.

Richard C. Davenport of Harrisburg Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. became the Grand Master Mason of Illinois, overseeing all Masons in the state. His tenure in that position lasted from 1925 to 1926 and then served as Grand Secretary from 1928–1960. During his term, The Grand Lodge Secretary's office was in the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge, located on North Main and Walnut Streets.

The 2009 officers include Terry Mott, Worshipful Master; Don Leibenguth, Secretary; Richard D. Harper, Treasurer; Bruce Tolley, Senior Warden; Mark Mathis, Junior Warden; Mack Farmer, Senior Deacon; Raymond Gunning, Junior Deacon; Dave Businaro, Marshall; George Knight, Senior Steward; Kerry Jones, Junior Steward; Cameron Brown, Tiler and Lyndel Alexander, Chaplin.

I am pleased to recognize the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. on this special occasion. I extend my best wishes for an enjoyable rededication and grand opening.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this essential Resolution, unequivocally opposing any endorsement or further consideration of the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

The United Nations report on the conflict in Gaza is reflective of the original mandate ordering its creation: biased and one-sided. Like all sovereign nations, Israel has not only a right, but moreover, an obligation, to ensure the safety and security of her citizens. Israel's military operation was in response to 8 years during which Hamas terrorists fired more than 10,000 rockets, mortars and missiles at Israeli towns and villages.

Despite these facts, and due to the original mandate that precluded it from drafting an objective report, the Commission concluded that Israel's defensive operation was a war on Gaza's civilian population. This claim is an outright distortion of the truth.

Throughout the Gaza Conflict, Israel went above and beyond—even putting itself at risk—to protect innocent Palestinian civilians. Specifically, Israel dropped leaflets and made phone calls to targeted Palestinian areas to warn citizens they were in danger, even if that meant losing the element of surprise and putting the lives of its own soldiers at risk.

This report ignores evidence that many civilian casualties were a result of Hamas routinely using Palestinian civilians as human shields. Eyewitness testimonies, video and Israeli intelligence reports show that during the operation, Hamas stored weapons in mosques, used hospitals as headquarters, and intentionally endangered Palestinian civilians.

As a member of the Congressional Taskforce on Israel at the United Nations, it troubles me to see yet another biased, unfair attack against the State of Israel. Not only is this report a disgrace to the mission of the United Nations, but it distracts us from the real issue at hand—achieving lasting peace in the Middle East. Israelis, Palestinians and the international community must not lose the focus of this important goal, and must continue working to fight terrorism and support peace.

HONORING OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oakdale Irrigation District upon celebrating its 100th anniversary.

In 1853 miners built a small diversion dam off of the Stanislaus River, upstream from Knight's Ferry, and began digging a canal along the right bank of the river to their gravel

works in Knight's Ferry. In the late 1850s, David Locke built a flour mill at Knight's Ferry. The mill was destroyed by a flood in 1862, but was rebuilt by David Tulloch in 1866. Charles Tulloch, David's son, assumed management of the mill and purchased the miner's canal and water rights so he could extend the canal and sell the water to irrigate six thousand acres near Oakdale and Valley Home.

In 1887, the Wright Irrigation Act was approved by the California State Legislature and signed into law, giving water districts eminent domain rights, authority to issue bonds and to tax properties for the construction, maintenance and operations of irrigation works. In 1890, the Oakdale Irrigation Company began to work on an eleven mile long canal near Knight's Ferry. A few years later the Stanislaus Power and Water Company, headed by Mr. Tulloch, took over the irrigation company works. In 1909, Oakdale citizens held a town hall meeting to demand their own irrigation system; the land was surveyed and the district boundaries were established. With this completed, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors authorized an election in Oakdale; the people voted 849 to 27 to create the Oakdale Irrigation District. On November 1, 1909, the Oakdale Irrigation District, OID, was formally established.

In 1910, the OID partnered with the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) to jointly purchase the "Tulloch System" for six hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The two districts agreed on equal water rights, totaling over nine hundred second-feet of natural flow diversion. Since 1912, the OID and the SSJID have jointly constructed five dams on the Stanislaus River. The first was Goodwin Dam constructed at a cost of \$325,000.

The Melones Dam was completed in 1926, providing 112,500 acre-feet of water storage. Completed in 1957, the Tri-Dam project, including the Donnellis, Beardsley and Tulloch Dams, added 230,400 acre-feet of storage capacity to the watershed and a combined power generation capacity of eighty-one thousand kilowatts. Along with these storage facilities the OID built approximately three hundred and fifty miles of canals and laterals to supply water to users throughout the district. Completed in 1984, the Sand Bar Hydroelectric powerhouse added over sixteen thousand kilowatts of power for the district.

In 2004, the OID launched a major Water Resource Plan to study means to repair, rebuild, and modernize the old and outdated system. The plan's overall goal was to protect the OID's water rights while enhancing the system and improving services. The Plan has led to major rehabilitation efforts that continue today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Oakdale Irrigation District on 100 years of development and service within its region. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Oakdale Irrigation District many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall votes Nos. 832–841.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 832–837 and votes 839–841. On rollcall vote No. 838, I would have voted "nay."

AVA SUZANNE CULVER MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chad and April Culver on the birth of their daughter, Ava Suzanne Culver. Ava was born yesterday, Wednesday, November 4, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces and measured 22 inches long. My wife Faye joins me in wishing Chad and April, and Avery's grandparents Durwood and Vickie Stephenson, great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Chad and April feel at this special time. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young at heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I know the Culvers look forward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch Ava grow.

I welcome young Ava into the world and wish Chad and April all the best.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN OVERINGTON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Overington as he becomes the first member to reach 25 years of service in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

First elected to represent the 55th District of West Virginia in 1984, John has spent the past 25 years working tirelessly to address the needs of Berkeley County. He has become revered for his public service while successfully bringing results through his leadership and involvement with numerous community organizations. Working on many vital pieces of legislation, John has assured that the best interests of West Virginia are at the forefront.

John is involved in countless organizations and has received several recognitions for his efforts, including Martinsburg-Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Chairman Award in 1988. I know his involvement in the Bedington Ruritan Club is very special to him, where his passionate support has helped achieve fellowship, goodwill, and community service in the area.

It is an honor to congratulate such a distinguished public servant for his years of service and contribution to Berkeley County and the State of West Virginia. I'm proud to call John a friend and fellow West Virginian.

IN HONOR OF BILL POOLE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, many years ago on a high mountain lake, two young boys were catching trout from a small rowboat, using corn kernels for bait. The "captain" of this ten-foot boat was a wiry, older guy with an ageless face and a direct manner. He was all business.

"Keep your rod tip up. You're hooked into a monster," he commanded. The boy let out a whoop as the "monster," a twelve-inch rainbow trout, broke the surface of the lake.

That boy was me. The other boy was my brother Sam, who is now serving in Iraq.

The captain of the rowboat was Bill Poole who, on this and other occasions, made life very exciting for us. Sadly, Bill lost his battle with cancer last month.

After our first experience together, I would learn that Bill was a legendary outdoorsman and sport fishing captain, whose "monsters" were fish that weighed in at hundreds of pounds, whose fishing trips were 1,000 mile sojourns, and whose boats were the standard for the sport fishing industry.

But on that day, Bill was exhibiting the quality that made so many San Diegans and outdoorsmen from around the world want to be near him. He radiated outdoor excitement and anticipation. Bill Poole was fun. For us kids, his mock sternness would half-frighten us and then melt into a big smile as he showed us "the right way to do it."

Bill represented the fabulous outdoor dimension of our San Diego community. Early on he recognized the treasure that the fishing grounds of California and Baja California offered to outdoorsmen who wanted their fishing trip to be a real adventure. He was the father of long-range sport fishing in San Diego. His talent for finding big fish was legendary. His integrity was stainless, and his personality pulled people of all ages to him like a giant magnet.

One of those people was his wife Ingrid. A combination of beauty and purpose, she shared Bill's life on a thousand outdoor adventures around the world. Together, and with thousands of adventurous San Diego friends, they made the Safari Club a wellspring of conservation and outdoor fun.

When the Hunter family was going on a hunting trip, Dad would always make a swing by Bill's house to "borrow" equipment. Bill would ladle out gear and advice on our upcoming outing, interspersed with comments like "I'll never see this again." Then he and Dad would laugh. The gear would eventually make it back to Bill's garage.

A new generation is charged with stewardship of the magnificent outdoors resource that we call America. It's our job to keep our waters and land full of game and fish. As important, it's our job to keep our wonderful resource open for enjoyment by our citizens and their kids. Let's remember that enjoying that resource was Bill's legacy, so that a hundred years from now, a small boy can bring in a 12-inch "monster" rainbow trout under of the encouragement of people just like Bill Poole.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUGET
SOUND RECOVERY ACT OF 2009**HON. NORMAN D. DICKS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009.

One of the iconic physical features of my home state is Puget Sound. It is a keystone of our identity in Washington State. In a region known for its beauty, Puget Sound is beyond comparison.

But the postcard image of Puget Sound belies the fact that it is in decline. Over the last 20 years we have seen increasing signs that water quality is deteriorating. We are experiencing low-oxygen zones in a growing number of areas within Puget Sound. Many of our most cherished aquatic species are in trouble with salmon and Orcas listed under the Endangered Species Act. At this point, nearly three-quarters of our original estuaries and wetlands are gone. And as a toxic remnant of its more industrialized past, the bottom of the Sound has many thousands of acres of extreme contamination.

Even with this decline, the Sound remains a natural wonder, and my legislation will provide an increased Federal role to reverse the deterioration. Its 2,800 square miles of inland marine waters makes Puget Sound the Nation's second largest estuary after Chesapeake Bay. There is a strong marine and natural resource industry. The bounty of the Sound includes several hundred fish species, plentiful shellfish and shrimp, 25 different marine mammals and 100 different species of sea birds.

Several years ago, the State of Washington led by Governor Gregoire recognized the dire condition of Puget Sound. In response, the Puget Sound Partnership was set up to lead the state effort to restore the Sound. The Partnership developed the Puget Sound Action Agenda which was recently approved by the EPA as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan. This Action Agenda will serve as the blueprint that local and state government, Tribes, and federal agencies will follow in this cooperative effort to restore Puget Sound. In tandem with these efforts occurring in Washington State, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which I chair has approved increasing amounts of funding for Puget Sound in the annual EPA budget. For FY 2010, I am proud that the EPA budget contains \$50 million for Puget Sound. President Obama signed this spending bill into law on October 30th.

The Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 sets up an EPA office in Washington State to coordinate the federal effort to implement the Action Agenda. The other Federal agencies that are involved in the cleanup include the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological Survey, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security and Transportation. In addition, this bill authorizes grants to study the causes of the Sound's declining water quality and ways to counter these threats, as well as grants for sewer and stormwater discharge projects.

I am pleased that the 6 Washington State Delegation Members whose districts surround the Puget Sound are original cosponsors of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the Puget Sound Recovery Act of 2009 is an important step to authorize the federal role in the cleanup of this important water body.

CHERYL ANDERSON PEGUES ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Cheryl Pegues, as she celebrates her retirement. A dedicated professional, volunteer, mentor and friend, Cheryl has earned the respect and admiration of those throughout our community.

Cheryl has been a member of the Administration at Gateway Community College in New Haven, Connecticut for more than two decades. She spent 18 years as the Director of Financial Aid, a year and a half as Acting Dean of Students, and, today, is retiring from the position of Director of Student Development and Services. Prior to her move to Gateway, she served as Assistant Director of the Connecticut Talent Assistance Cooperative Education Opportunity Center—a federal TRIO program where she also served as an education counselor. As you know, TRIO programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Throughout her professional career, Cheryl sought to assist young people in their endeavors to further their education. Many of those she worked with would not have otherwise benefitted from a college education. Education is the cornerstone of success and today, more than ever before, our young people are facing weighty challenges as they try to pursue a college degree—and those challenges are even larger for disadvantaged children. Cheryl's work has opened the doors of opportunity for countless young people and made all the difference in their lives.

Cheryl's interest in enriching the lives of young people extends far beyond her professional life. Over the years she has been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Latino Youth Development, the Education Support Services program, the Children in Crisis Coordinating Committee, and the Urban Improvement Corps. Cheryl served on the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Conference Committee and has organized financial aid workshops and college orientation seminars upon request from local high schools, churches, as well as civic and service organizations.

In addition to all of this, Cheryl still finds the time to serve as a Deacon and active parishioner at Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church. She also served as a member of numerous professional organizations including the Theta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, the National Council of Negro Women, the Greater New Haven Chapter of the NAACP, and the New Haven Chapter of the Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Her invaluable contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that Cheryl will continue in her work to enrich the lives of young people and make our community a better place to live, learn and grow.

Today, as she celebrates her retirement from her professional life, I am proud to join her husband, Elbert, her children, Elbert and Elicia, and her granddaughter, Kaila, as well as the many family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere congratulations to Cheryl Pegues. Her extraordinary professional career and infinite generosity touched the hearts and minds of many. I wish her all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

HEALTH CARE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, 4-1/2 decades ago on this very floor, Congress debated legislation closely related to the bill we will consider later this week.

It is said that history is destined to repeat itself, especially when we repeat ourselves. So listen to these statements from the predecessors of my friends in the minority when they debated the bill creating Medicare.

Their arguments sound very familiar—some strikingly similar—to the comments we've been hearing about the Affordable Health Care for America Act:

Quoting Representative Durwood G. Hall, a Republican congressman from Missouri, who happened to also be a medical doctor:

Mr. Speaker, the basis of quality medical care is the voluntary relationship between the doctor and patient. This would begin to disappear as the Government supplants the individual as the purchaser and provider of health services . . .

Are we to tell the people of America, the senior citizens, that they are not capable of determining this matter . . .

The result will inescapably be third-party intrusion into the practice of hospitalization and medicine. The physician's judgment would be open to question by others, not responsible for the patient's wellbeing . . .

Congressman Hall went onto say:

. . . Its adoption would be another downward step toward loss of freedom of choice.

Consequently, we cannot stand idly by now, as the Nation is urged to embark on an ill-conceived adventure in Government medicine, the end of which, no one can see, and from which the patient is certain to be the ultimate sufferer. For make no mistake about it: The medical profession will never deprive the people of high-quality medical care and the fruits of progress of medical science. That will come when the Government begins meddling and interfering with medical freedom.

Quoting Edward Derwinski, a Republican congressman from Illinois, who made similar arguments:

As we look into the future, we see clear signs of rigid governmental control of our

medical system which can only be detrimental to all our citizens. At the risk of oversimplification, may I state that this bill is a sugar-coated pill that is being swallowed in an easy fashion, but its ill effects will be felt in the ultimate crippling of our medical services and unwarranted regressive tax burden on our citizens.

Quoting Congressman Thomas Curtis, also from the state of Missouri, who has this to say:

What we have done is to take a system that has proved successful for 85 percent of our people, including our older people, in order to solve the problems of the 15 percent.

These arguments were made by Republicans while debating the Social Security Amendments of 1965, commonly known as Medicare—the bill that became law and responsible for the program that has treated and cared for tens of millions of American seniors with the medical care they need.

It is striking but not all too surprising that the Grand Old Party is using the same old arguments on the other side of the aisle today.

I doubt there is any member in this chamber today who would reasonably argue that Medicare has not benefited our Nation. Do they think insurance companies would step in to cover a 75-year old cancer patient if it were not for Medicare?

Madam Speaker, the specter of a government takeover of health care has been part of the Republican playbook for nearly 45 years. It wasn't true then and it isn't true now.

Medicare is the life blood of today's seniors. It put the 'great' in LBJ's Great Society. History is destined to repeat itself—not just the mistakes, but the triumphs as well.

HONORING THE LATE ANTHONY T. KAHOOHANOHANO ON BEING AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the late Anthony T. Kahooohanohano for his extraordinary heroism while serving during the Korean War. Private First Class Kahooohanohano's service was recently acknowledged with our Nation's highest award of merit, the Medal of Honor.

I am grateful to my colleague Senator AKAKA for inserting a provision in this year's defense authorization bill that awards the Medal of Honor to Mr. Kahooohanohano and to President Obama for signing the bill into law.

Awarding the Medal of Honor to Anthony Kahooohanohano has long been overdue. A 19-year-old soldier from Wailuku on the island of Maui, Kahooohanohano bravely sacrificed his own life to protect fellow soldiers in the area of Chupa-ri, Korea on September 1, 1951.

After ordering members of his machine-gun squad to take up more secure positions to provide cover as U.S. forces withdrew, Kahooohanohano bravely stayed behind to fight the enemy on his own, even fighting in hand-to-hand combat after he ran out of ammunition. He was killed in action, but his courageous actions inspired other American troops to launch a counterattack against the enemy.

On behalf of Anthony Kahooohanohano's family and the State of Hawaii, and in honor

of the service and sacrifice of our servicemembers and veterans, I thank my colleagues for supporting this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$11,978,953,722,825.90.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

The national debt has increased by \$1,340,527,976,532.10 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

COMMENDING WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP'S SALUTE TO OLD GLORY PROGRAM

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House for one minute.

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day, there will be a special celebration entitled a Salute to Old Glory in Woodbridge Township, New Jersey. The goal of the program is to refurbish all American flags and flag poles throughout the Woodbridge Township School District. This is a huge undertaking; Woodbridge Township is the largest municipality in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

A Salute to Old Glory began is a vision of Woodbridge Board of Education Member George Yuhasz, a lifelong resident of Woodbridge Township. With the help of community activist Charlie Shaughnessy of Colonia, New Jersey the program to replace and preserve American flags throughout the Township has become a huge success.

Veterans as well as civic organizations have joined in this effort in making Salute to Old Glory a positive initiative throughout the community.

The American Flag stands for many things in our beloved Nation. It also serves as a great inspiration for those who want to become part of our great democracy.

Educational involvement incorporated into the program included student essays and artistic presentations that allowed for involvement of students throughout the school district.

The program has been successful because it has been a total community effort. In fact, Salute to Old Glory will become an ongoing effort not only for the Woodbridge Board of Education but for all public buildings in Woodbridge Township that may need a replenishment of an American flag or flagpole.

All of those involved in with the Salute to Old Glory program in Woodbridge Township should be commended for their efforts.

I am pleased to share their hard work with my colleagues here in Congress and with the American people.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I am disappointed that we have gotten to the point that the House even has to consider this resolution before us this week. I am inclined to vote for this resolution but not without reservations.

My vote for this resolution should not be read either as an endorsement of Operation Lead Cast or as an endorsement of the position that investigations of serious allegations of war crimes should not be undertaken.

We cannot act as if the devastating war in Gaza in January did not have consequences for Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community. We cannot and should not brush aside legitimate allegations about abuses committed by both sides during this conflict. Yet, now more than ever, we also need to intensify efforts to resolve the very serious issues that had unfortunately led to many needless deaths and continuing tensions and may continue to do so if we let the status quo linger.

I have reservations that the resolution before the House this week would do nothing to defuse the demagoguery that has long plagued the Middle East and to help steer us to a future devoid of more rocket attacks or violence in the region.

Ten months after the "cessation" of overt fighting in Gaza, tensions remain high and both the Palestinian and Israeli people continue to live with tremendous insecurity and fear. I am dismayed that it appears to be only a matter of time until the endless cycle of violence repeats itself again along with the resumption of increased misery for innocent Israeli and Palestinian men, women, and children in the region. We as a Congress, at this point, would be better served by trying to support efforts to reinvigorate the peace process, defuse these mounting tensions, and pressing both parties to meet at the negotiating table.

Nonetheless, the Goldstone report includes some very serious charges relating to possible war crimes or other crimes against humanity committed by Israel, Hamas, and other Palestinian armed groups. To give just one example, there are allegations of deliberate and premeditated efforts to target a wastewater treatment plant—that did not have any link to "Palestinian armed groups or any other effective contribution to military action"—sending over 200,000 cubic meters of raw sewage onto farmland. What is lacking in this report is a full and complete accounting of the reckless, indiscriminate, and ongoing use of rockets by

Hamas and other groups to target innocent civilians in Israel. Such a report cannot short-change such an effort because doing so allows those seeking to score political points—rather than seeking peace, stability, and accountability—to hijack this process.

Again, the breadth and gravity of these charges demand that these “facts” be established in a comprehensive and fair way. Yet, even our own State Department—which has been actively engaged in pursuing peace in the region and urging both sides to move that process forward—has raised concerns about both the mandate for the report as well as the report itself, noting “serious concerns about the report’s unbalanced focus on Israel, its sweeping factual and legal conclusions, and many of its recommendations.” I am not saying that there should not be a serious and comprehensive finding of fact that can serve as a starting point on the road to truth and justice about what occurred on both sides. But this is not it.

The lack of a widely credible report on potential human rights abuses during the Gaza conflict is a missed opportunity to advance peace or stability in the region. It does not advance accountability. In a region with plenty of easy opportunity for division and unleashing of tensions, I believe that a more widely credible report could have been so much more useful in promoting transparency about what occurred, justice for those affected, and the prospect of a future peace for all. And it would have made this resolution on the floor this week unnecessary.

HONORING PHILLIP SHORT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Phillip Short for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Short passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, California. Mr. Short was seventy-three years old.

Phillip Short was born and raised in Hughson, California and graduated from Hughson High School. He attended the University of California, Berkley where he played football and majored in engineering. After college, he returned to Hughson and began growing walnuts and almonds along the Tuolumne River for over fifty years.

Mr. Short began his political activity within his community in 1967, when he joined the Hughson Elementary School Board. He served on the board for ten years. In August, 1977 Mr. Short was appointed to the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors. He was elected to serve on the TID board for eight consecutive four-year terms; serving over thirty-

two years. During his tenure he dealt with droughts, floods, environmental rules and the expansion of the TID electricity system between south Modesto and northern Merced County. His position with TID allowed him to oversee recreation at Don Pedro Reservoir on the Tuolumne River. Over the years, Mr. Short was also a member of the California Walnut Commission and the Federal Walnut Control Board. He served as a chairman of the export and research committees of the California Walnut Marketing Board and served as president of the Association of California Water Agencies from 1993 to 1995. In addition, Mr. Short served our nation as a United States Marine Corp reservist.

Mr. Short is survived by his wife, Kay, and five children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Phillip Short. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Short’s life and wishing the best for his family.

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING GREATER SUPPORT FOR VETERANS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of freedom, but specifically, I rise in support of the soldiers who have made the dream of freedom a reality for us all. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 89, which recognizes the sacrifices that are made every day by the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, I am pleased the House voted this week on the final passage of this legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge Congressman JOE BACA for introducing this legislation, which commemorates the public holiday of Veteran’s Day and its significance in carrying on the legacy of our living and fallen soldiers.

As a bipartisan bill, this legislation represents the unanimous recognition of the impact that the men and women of the United States Armed Forces make on our daily lives. The legislation notes the solemn cost of death that we pay for the defense of our freedom, and the importance of acknowledging the value of that cost. Every fallen soldier is an integral part of our collective American community, and a tremendous loss is sustained when a brother, a mother, a sister, a father, a child or a friend is removed from that community.

As we remember those who have given so much to our country, whose patriotism exceeds the requirement and defies the norm, we must also remember that it is our duty to provide for the needs of those heroes through programs, funding and medical services. Many

of the trials that our veterans face as they return home cannot be resolved, from broken bones to the memories of the tragedy of war. However, ensuring that our veterans have a home to come home to is the least we can do for these patriotic heroes. My colleagues and I were able to accomplish that through the Homes for Heroes Act, which was passed in June of this year. This bill will establish funding for low-income veterans, and will address the issues of homelessness and mental health for our veterans who need it most.

Next week, on Veteran’s Day, let us also recognize the significant contribution that military families play in the lives of our soldiers. Through their sacrifices, all of our families are afforded the opportunity of living the American Dream. I thank my colleagues for approving H. Res. 89 this week and look forward to joining with my constituents in Houston next week. As a community, we will honor the sacrifices made by our Nation’s veterans.

ILLEGAL ALIEN LOOPHOLE IN PELOSI HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday I joined my colleagues to comb through the Pelosi health care takeover. The takeover bill weighs in at 21 pounds and is 2,000 pages long. You would think in a bill that size, we would be able to find an adequate enforcement or citizenship verification system.

Unfortunately, we did not. All we found were weak citizenship verification measures that will give illegal aliens easy access to health care benefits paid for by hard working taxpayers—with overcrowding of medical providers delaying services for legal citizens.

In an effort to close this loophole, I am going to join Congressmen NATHAN DEAL, DEAN HELLER and SAM JOHNSON to present several amendments to the Rules Committee. Our amendments will prevent American taxpayers from being forced to finance benefits for illegal aliens by adding strong enforcement and verification provisions to the Pelosi health care takeover bill.

I encourage the Rules Committee to accept our amendments to eliminate the loopholes for fraud and abuse.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. I am grateful for the visit on Capitol Hill today by the Morristown Tea Party led by Jeff Weingarten who I visited last Sunday to encourage turnout in the New Jersey gubernatorial election Tuesday. With dedicated volunteers such as Synnove Bakke of East Brunswick, there was an historic turnout.